

Wire Fraud and Money Scams



IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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"In Partnership with the Community"



Money Transfer Scams and Wire Fraud

Money or wire transfer fraud occurs when someone convinces the victim to wire or transfer money to someone they have never met. Wiring money is the same as sending cash. Once it is sent, it is impossible to get it back. Ask yourself:

- ★ Do you know the person you are actually sending the money to?
- ★ Have you done business with the company or person in the past?
- ★ Can you afford to never see this money again?
- ★ Have you verified why you need to wire money?

Types of Scams

- ★ You are asked to deposit a check and send back a portion of the money
- ★ Someone you do not know pretending to be a friend or relative in crisis
- ★ Someone from a utility company or the government who tells you to purchase prepaid money cards to pay for past due bills
- ★ You have been told you won a prize or contest and asked to wire money to pay fees, taxes or customs
- ★ You are asked to work from home and your job is to help with receiving and sending payments on behalf of the company

Fraud Prevention Tips

- ★ Never divulge your personal account information, pin or password to anyone
- ★ Never pay additional fees on items that are supposed to be gifts delivered to you
- ★ New scams appear every day

Resources

www.annualcreditreport.com www.ftc.gov
1-877-FTC-HELP

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